

# BROC COMMUNITY ACTION

## *In Southwestern Vermont*

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December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman  
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

I can’t begin to describe how critical our PEG Television is to our City and very rural county in Rutland, Vermont. Losing it due to this change is beyond my imagination. PEGTV here provides complete transparency to our citizens; from local government and schools to community issues and opportunities 24/7 365.

It is an amazing community resource that benefits everybody. From myriad meetings and events, to weather information and alerts, our community is constantly being informed with the click of their remote or mouse.

Our organization (a community action agency) fully utilizes PEGTV to communicate our programs and opportunities that we provide to Vermonters.

This local presence enables the residents of the greater Rutland, Vermont region to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration. **In an era of public desire to provide more and more transparency in our communities and our municipalities we must protect PEG Access in our community and others; by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.**

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Tom Donahue, CEO  
BROC Community Action